



The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

Communicator



Reminder!!!
My SARC
membership
renewal is due

May 2015



At The Last Meeting...

SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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At The March General Meeting...

Minutes of the April 8, 2015 Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS

President John Brodie VA7XB opened the meeting at 1900 hr. A warm welcome was extended to Past President and recently-renewed member, Mike Plant VE7AT, as well as two other members who have been absent for several months: Mike Zavarukhin VE7ACN and John Schouten VE7TI. The membership was pleased to hear of the recovery progress of long-time member, Heinz Buhrig VA7AQ, after undergoing major surgery last month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

QSL Manager

It was noted that SARC's QSL Manager, Nelson Eisel VA7NAE, is stepping down from that responsibility and a new QSL manager is needed.

Equipment Labeling

ID labels have been purchased for application to all SARC equipment, to identify ownership and provide contact information. Labels are meant to supplement more permanent VE7SAR engraving of equipment which has always been the practice. Over time, labels will be affixed to all SARC equipment stored, in use or loaned out.

Donated Equipment to be Offered for Sale to SARC Members

A large amount of commercial radio equipment has been offered to SARC by a now-retired owner of a sales/service agency. A list will be circulated later in April to allow members to purchase items at attractive prices. Items unsold after a short time will then be offered at the Maple Ridge Swap Meet on May 3rd. The help of volunteers at the swap meet may be needed (*see supplement on [page 27](#)*).

Construction Project Competition

John VA7XB reminded members of the battery monitor construction competition now underway. Projects should be completed in time to be demonstrated at the June meeting and tested at Field Day, with an award for the best project to be given out at the September meeting. It is within the rules to use kit components but there should be some element of home construction and innovation, especially in the method of low voltage alarm. Judging will be based on: 1. suitability for FD use 2. acceptable cost and 3. innovation. Ideas from members for a suitable prize are requested.

Repeater Day

It was announced that Coastal Ham Radio, an online club started in the fall of 2014, is proposing April 11 as repeater day. SARC joins them in encouraging all amateurs to make a contact or two on a repeater of their choice between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm. This announcement brought forth a suggestion from Al Neufeld VE7CDC that the group consider how we can promote more use of our repeater which does not see sufficient activity. Of the 26 members present it was determined that: 10 members have a mobile VHF radio in their vehicle, 7 members have mobile UHF capability, and 5 others rely on a handheld radio for local use, including nets. Only 5 or 6 members indicated that they use the repeater once a week or more, for a casual conversation. It was acknowledged that this is a common problem with other repeaters and clubs in the area. The discussion had to be terminated given time constraints but is worthy of further consideration.

Foxhunt

Al Peterson VA7ALZ reported that the foxes are ready to go for the May 23rd foxhunt at Crescent Park. There will be a BBQ afterwards and family members

are invited to participate in the foxhunt and BBQ. Al indicated that extra radios and antennas will be available for use by those who do not own suitable equipment. Details may be found on the home page of SARC's website: www.ve7sar.net.

May meeting

The May meeting will focus on Field Day planning, but details have not yet been finalized. Also, it is hoped that books of tickets for the annual raffle will be available for distribution to members at that time, thereby providing 4 months to sell prior to the Cruise-in on September 12th.

June meeting

June 10th is our AGM at which time the annual financial report will be presented and new directors will be elected. In accordance with the bylaws, half of the directors are elected for a 2-year term with the other half elected in alternate years. Members were encouraged to consider running for a position on the Board of Directors to fill the vacant positions. The bylaws of the association require all persons voting at the AGM to be members "in good standing", i.e. paid up for the current fiscal year. Since the 2014/2015 fiscal year ends on May 31st, the June AGM is within the 2015/2016 fiscal year and payment of fees will be required before voting takes place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA did not have the latest bank balances available but advised there have been only minor expenses since the last meeting. Members who require a name badge

should let Scott know, but he does not plan to order new badges now until the Fall.

Communicator

John Schouten VE7TI reported that he received good feedback from members submitting articles for the Communicator, and hopes they will continue every month, with personal experiences being the best. A special thanks was extended to Jinty Reid VA7JMR for her well-written and informative "member profile" articles.

Website

Howard Ticzon VA7HTZ reports that the website is functioning well and being kept up-to-date. It was noted that SARC's website host reported 24,000 hits with 13,000 unique visitors to website in 2014.

Net and Repeater

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV advised no problems have recently been experienced with the net or repeater.

Satellite Group

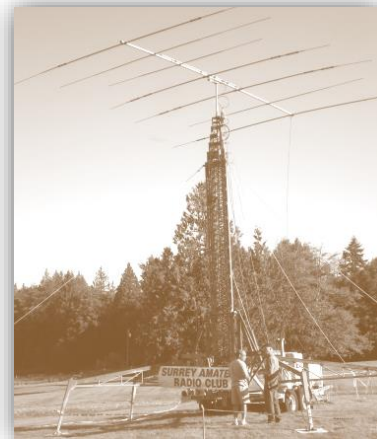
John VA7XB reported that the Satellite Group will have its 3rd meeting on Sunday April 12th at which time a demo of their satellite equipment will be given by Nell (VA7PE) and Ralph (VA7UB) Wrotniak. Following that, the proposed FD setup including antennas & rotator tracking will be tested.

Contest Group

Brett Garrett VE7GM reviewed the following SARC Contest Group supported contests for April:

- ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB Sunday April 19. Members who fit the ARRL definition of rookies were encouraged to participate, and experienced members

(Continued on page 4)



The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly except July and August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

On The Cover...

Here we have John VA7XB and Ron VE7VTA testing what appears to be a new experimental 'Broomstick' vertical. This novel design is sure to catch on with YLs everywhere. The only drawback with this antenna configuration is that the user has to kneel to provide a good ground plane so that the radiation pattern is optimized. It's sure to make a 'clean sweep' in any contest!

Oh wait, this is May isn't it, not April. Never mind...



May 2015

"Members came away with a new appreciation of the difficulties presented to blind persons and the skills involved in enjoying the benefits of different operating modes on HF, VHF and UHF"

were encouraged to get on the air and work some rookies.

- Florida QSO Party (CW and SSB) April 25-26 (host TBD)

Brett observed that in May there will only be two SARC Contest Group-supported contest opportunities, and that there are no supported contests in June (other than Field Day).

It was emphasized that FD operators are expected to keep up their skills in contests through the year so as to be ready to "hit the road running" at FD, and familiarity with the new & improved N1MM+ logger will be required. Field Day is a competitive event and past operators should not assume they will be invited to operate this year if they have not continued developing their skills throughout the year.

Field Day

In the absence of Stan Williams VA7NF, it was noted by John VA7XB that our FD will be held at Grandview Heights school grounds. QRP operation is being considered but a final decision has yet to be made. The biggest challenge at this site is providing adequate low band antennas in a setting where the trees are not optimally located. A preliminary budget for FD expenses has been proposed but was not discussed, given Stan's unavailability. The feasibility of QRP operation will be tested by John VA7XB and Brett VE7GM during one or more April contests.

Presentation

After a coffee break, Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV and Garvin Yee VA7YEE made a presentation titled "Getting the Most from VHF/UHF" [photos below]. Rob described how the vision-impaired get around the many obstacles in operating radios and computers, including the use of Braille and specialized software that reads what is on the screen. Members came away with a new appreciation of the difficulties presented to blind persons and the skills involved in enjoying the benefits of different operating modes on HF, VHF and UHF. The talk concluded with a demonstration by Garvin of the proper procedure for using IRLP and Echolink, including a contact made via IRLP with VE4XM in Winnipeg. Following that, the suggestion was made that members endeavor to check into the Surrey net next week using Echolink from their computer or radio. Thanks to Rob and Garvin for a very enlightening talk and demo.

The "members' donation incentive" draw was won by Mike VE7ACN after which the meeting was adjourned at 2100 hr to reconvene for some social interaction at the local MacDonalds restaurant.

Minutes prepared from notes by

~ Rob VE7CZV



Garvin VA7YEE demonstrates IRLP with a contact to VE4XM in Winnipeg.

Rob VE7CZV demonstrates the use of his equipment for visually impaired hams. Be sure to read Garvin's QRT on [page 24](#).

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 10, 2015 AT 7:00 PM
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC OFFICES
14275 96TH AVENUE, SURREY, BC

AGENDA

1. Welcome, call to order and confirmation of quorum
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of 2014 AGM minutes
4. Presentation and approval of Annual Financial Statements
5. Announcements
6. Committee reports
7. Other/new business
8. Election of Directors
9. Project Demos (Battery Monitor)
10. Adjournment

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Members elect up to 8 Directors, each serving a 2-year term. Directors in caucus appoint the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Directors continuing for the second year of their 2-year term are:

Williams, Stan VA7NF
Peterson, Al VA7ALZ
Gipps, Bill VE7XS
Garrett, Brett VE7GM
Brodie, John VA7XB

Nominations for Director for a 2-year term are:

Schouten, John VE7TI
Hawrelak, Scott VE7HA
Gilchrist, Rob VE7CZV



Only members in good standing may vote at the AGM
This requires that dues be paid for the 2015/2016 fiscal year prior to, or at, the AGM.

May 2015



The Contest Contender

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SARC Contest Group Calendar for May 2015

May brings the last two “hosted” contests of the year: the CQ-M International DX contest from 1200Z 9 May to 1159Z 10 May 2015; and the CQ WW WPX CW contest from 0000Z 30 May to 2359Z 31 May 2015.

The CQ WW WPX contests (there are versions at different times of the year for CW and SSB ops) are particularly interesting because each unique prefix is a multiplier, and there is a host of different prefixes even in just North America, let alone around the world. The rules give examples of unique prefixes: “N8, W8, WD8, HG1, HG19, KC2, OE2, OE25, LY1000, etc. Any difference in the numbering, lettering, or order of same shall count as a separate prefix.” Even though a prefix is counted only once regardless of band, there are so many prefixes available that gathering new multipliers by strategically working the bands can be pretty exciting.

“an important consideration when making contacts that you think might be dupes: log them anyway!”

CQ contests emphasize logging accuracy. The contest committee uses sophisticated log checking software and assigns penalties for call sign errors, or calls not found in the other station’s log. Duplicate contacts, while they are removed from the list of claimed contacts, do not accrue any penalty (i.e. you don’t get points for dupes, but you don’t lose additional points either).

This brings up an important consideration when making contacts that you think might be dupes: log them anyway! This rule is gaining popularity in contests, and in some contests the organizers specifically instruct that apparent dupes are to be logged. (In some contest logging software, this may require changing a configuration option to permit logging contacts that the software thinks are dupes.) All this is not to say that one should deliberately work dupes, but if, when running, someone you think you have worked already tries to work you again, don’t waste time saying “You are a dupe” (in SSB) or “B4” (in CW): just work them quickly and log the contact. If one of you had previously copied the other station’s call incorrectly, there will be one point for this contact that will partially offset the two point penalty for the previous (incorrectly logged) contact.

Details about the CQ-M International DX contest can be found here: <http://www.cq-m.ru/en/rules/140-58th-cq-m9.html>.

This site gives the detailed rules (with exchange, entry categories, operating

times, power limits, modes, the required exchange, detailed information on how to submit your log, available awards, etc.). Stations from outside Russia can work other DX (and even non-DX) stations as well as Russian stations.

Details about the CQ WW WPX CW contest can be found here: <http://www.cqwpix.com/rules.htm>.

This site gives the detailed rules (with exchange, entry categories, operating times, power limits, the required exchange, detailed information on how to submit your log, available awards, etc.).

The host station (either John VA7XB’s or Jim VE7FO’s, and sometimes both) are both well-equipped for DX. This edition of the contest is open to CW ops only.

Host stations are open for both novice and experienced members of the contest group. If mentoring is desired, we can arrange that. If members just want to be able to enjoy the use of a really good station, then that’s ok also.

SARC members who are seriously interested in contesting are welcome to join the group at any time. An introduction to contesting will be arranged for them if desired. Contact Brett VE7GM or any member of the SARC executive for information on joining the group.

Since there are no further Contest Group hosted contests for the season, this will be my last article on this subject for this year. There are some upcoming contests over the next few

months, however, that you might want to look into.

You can always find a current list of contests, and links to other sites that list contests, at the ARRL Contest calendar page here: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>. Pay particular attention to the links to third-party calendars at the bottom of the page. I use the WA7BNM calendar as my standard, due to its relative completeness and easy customization (so I see only contests that interest me). You can find that calendar here at URL:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

Other than Field Day, below are a few that I think you might find worth the effort, listed by month (dates and times are UTC, with credit to WA7BNM for the master list I extracted these from):

And even if you feel like packing your radio in mothballs for the summer, get it out and on the air for the RAC Canada Day contest! Help fly our country's colours on the air!

~ 73 & GL in the contests!
Brett VE7GM



*SARC members who
are seriously
interested in
contesting are
welcome to join the
group at any time.*

June 2015

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| + ARRL June VHF Contest | 1800Z, Jun 13 to 0259Z, Jun 15 |
| + All Asian DX Contest, CW | 0000Z, Jun 20 to 2400Z, Jun 21 |

July 2015

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| + RAC Canada Day Contest | 0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1 |
| + IARU HF World Championship | 1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12 |
| + RSGB IOTA Contest | 1200Z, Jul 25 to 1200Z, Jul 26 |

August 2015

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| + North American QSO Party, CW | 1800Z, Aug 1 to 0559Z, Aug 2 |
| + Hawaii QSO Party | 0400Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 24 |

September 2015

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| + Washington State Salmon Run | 1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20 and
1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20 |
|-------------------------------|---|

For Sale...

- Icom IC-7000, newer version c/w RT software, and some cables \$899 for the package
- Icom ID-51A, with the RT software, hand mike, cables and connectors \$490. Radio only \$399

Don Hamilton VA7GL va7gl@icloud.com

May 2015



The Contest Contender II

Jeremy Morse VE7TMY

A Rookie Roundup Report

The Rookie Roundup is a contest for amateurs that have received their license within the last 3 years. (2015/14/13) There are different modes at several times of year April = SSB (Phone), August = RTTY and December = CW.

I qualified as a rookie since I was first licensed in 2014 and was interested in this contest. After speaking with Brett VE7GM about the Rookie Roundup Contest he said the contesting calendar was slowing down a bit prior to field day but he thought this might be a good chance for me to get some experience.

John VA7XB opened his station for this event and got me setup on N1MM logging software and the layout of his station and equipment. I had previously monitored along with the operators at John's QTH during the BC QSO party. Also I had participated briefly on some other contests from my own home so I had some idea of what to expect but had never run assisted mode myself. That's where the non-rookies really help out, and I was especially lucky to have experienced testers showing me the ropes.

After some further setup and coaching from John I started search and pounce on QRP (~5watts) on the 15 meter band. We chose to run QRP as an experiment prior to field day with the results to be used to help decision making later on. I made a few contacts but it was more difficult at low power to be heard among many others running full power in the pileups. It took several minutes to make each contact so the QSO rate was quite low. I

went into run mode for a short time on QRP and I did manage to get spotted on 15 meters which was nice.

Contacts were tough going and then Brett arrived about the time we switched to 20 meters. Sheldon VA7XNL was heard over me on QRP. I thought I was being called by the station but they heard VA7 not VE7. What are the odds on that happening?

I had QSOs from all over the US so even with QRP and a good antenna system I could be heard. The idea was that if they could hear me running QRP and responded to my CQ then QSOs would be possible. The main concerns were that search and pounce was more difficult on QRP and in run mode other stations setup near me might not have heard me running. I did have to repeat myself a few times and switch phonetics slightly to be heard occasionally.

Sheldon VA7XNL contacted me while I was running and gave me another multiplier. Thanks Sheldon for my only contact in BC! It was still moderately slow going and there was a fair bit of QRM around. The last hour of the contest we switched to 100 watts and I got busy in run mode very near the contest recommended frequency (14.250mhz). I think many US stations wanted to contact me as I may have been an easy multiplier for them.

After the contest ended I calculated my score by



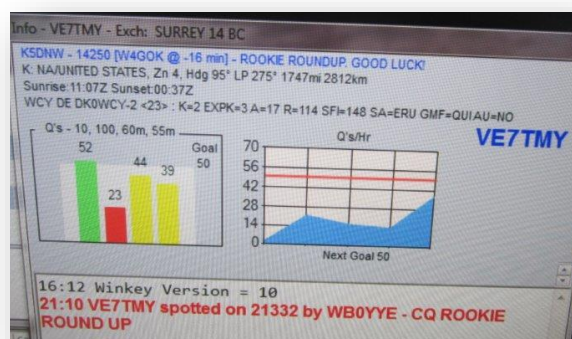
counting my rookie and non-rookie QSOs. Rookies are worth 2 points and Non-rookies 1 point.

Multipliers were given for each unique state and province, and as luck had it I ended up with nearly 50/50 mix of rookie/non-rookies. I also had a very high number of unique states/provinces worked (37) to multiply my score so I ended up with top rookie score in Canada.

I learned lots of tips with regard to contest etiquette and best practices from both John and Brett. I thank them both again for a great day of radio sport. I would highly recommend this contest be put on the calendar for next year's rookies, and don't forget the RTTY and CW modes later this year. This contest gave me some confidence I didn't have before that I could operate a contest station. I still have much more work to do on my own QTH but look forward to more contesting.

More information at URL:
<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup/>

~ Jeremy VE7TMY



Some Website Stats...

Hiu and Howard have done a great job maintaining our website over the past few years. This has definitely paid off as we now have stats to show that we generate lots of traffic.

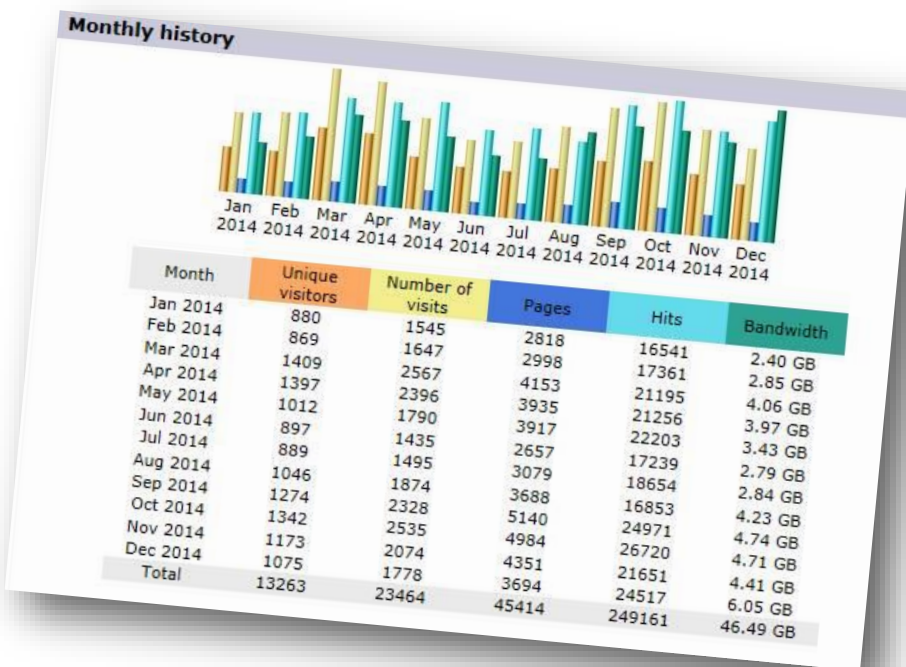
Unique visitors are individuals, some of whom may have visited multiple times. The total number of visits include all individuals, including repeats.

Pages refers to the number of individual pages on our site that they have visited.

Hits are the number of queries made worldwide in search engines that return the SARC website as a choice.

Bandwidth is the amount of traffic flowing through our web host, downloading the pages, files and of course the Communicator, which is the largest monthly file on our site. Using a conservative estimate of 4Mb per Communicator plus page downloads, the math seems to reflect about 800 Communicator downloads per average month!

We're trying to confirm that and I hereby invite non-SARC members who see this article to send a quick email to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com to tell us what they think of our publication.



Amateur Radio Roundtable

A live weekly ham radio webcast can be seen at W5KUB.com every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM CDT (0100 UTC Wednesday).

Exciting news - We are expanding our show and will be simulcasting our webcast on shortwave radio station, WTTW on 9930 KHz on Tuesday from 8:00 - 9:00 CDT (0100 -0200 UTC Wednesday). The show changes frequencies from 9930 to 5085 KHz at 9:00 CDT (0200 UTC Wednesday). This is a powerful shortwave station (100 Kilowatts) and is heard in many countries. Shortwave listeners will also have to option to go to w5kub.com and join in on the video webcast and chat room.

The show covers a wide range of topics for ham radio operators, electronic hobbyists, and shortwave listeners; such as, balloon launches, Satellite, go-kits, emergency communications, SDR, digital modes, DXing, home brewing, and more. We are adding another segment for our shortwave listeners. Ted Randall, WB8PUM, from

QSO Radio Show will be joining us each week as a co-host.

To watch Amateur Radio Roundtable go to W5KUB.com, click on Live Events. To join the chat room, sign in with your existing User Name and Password. If you don't have a user name and password, just enter your call or name, leave the password blank and click sign in. If you are listening on 9930 KHz, give us your location and signal report through our chat room.

We need your help with topics. If you have a specific subject that you would like to present in a future show, send an email to tom@W5KUB.com.

Join us for fun and interesting technology discussions. We'll see you on the webcast!

To follow our webcasts and to discuss ham radio, please join our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/w5kub/>

~ Tom Medlin, W5KUB

The show covers a wide range of topics for ham radio operators, electronic hobbyists, and shortwave listeners

May 2015



Outdoors With Ham Radio

Brett Garrett VE7GM

If enough members would like to take part in joint outdoor radio activities, an Outdoor Radio special interest group (similar to the groups for Contesting, Satellite, and CW groups) could be organized under the SARC umbrella to coordinate partnering and possibly group outings.

With spring fast approaching it becomes harder to sit inside at a radio when the sun; blue skies; birds; and blossoming trees, shrubs and flowers are beckoning outside. Fortunately, the outdoors and ham radio make a superb combination, thanks to today's miniaturized and power-saving technology.

VHF/UHF FM handhelds (HTs) often provide the most available way of taking ham radio outdoors. An HT with a decent whip antenna (something rather better than the usual rubber ducky), an external microphone, and an ear bud can be used for "pedestrian mobile" radio, bringing the old expression "walkie-talkie" to life. (Try this for your next check-ins to the Tuesday night SARC and SEPARS nets!) Alternatively, and with appropriate precautions to avoid collisions and other nasty mishaps, an HT and whip antenna can be secured to a bicycle for "bicycle mobile" radio, perhaps making use of VOX operation with a suitably compact one-sided headset.

A suitable clamp can fasten a whip antenna to a park bench for portable, rather than mobile, operation, allowing the less energetic but peripatetic ham to enjoy the fresh air, sunshine, and sights and smells of spring in a local park, taken one bench at a time, moving from location to location as fancy dictates.

Even more fun for some of us, at least, is the opportunity to work some HF DX contacts while walking along the beach, following the example of Peter Parker VK3YE (see Peter's website at

<http://home.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/projant.htm> or his YouTube channel for some videos of beach pedestrian mobile HF SSB operation using his "Wadetenna"). HF pedestrian mobile operation makes use of highly compact and light-weight yet high performance QRP (low power, typically 4-5 Watts) transceivers such as the popular Yaesu FT-817 or the highly regarded Elecraft KX3.

Even smaller and less expensive (but often lower power and definitely less flexible) rigs are available for pure CW operators.

For even more outdoors adventure, the physically fit ham can take part in the Summits on the Air (SOTA, <http://www.sota.org.uk>) program. SOTA operation is possible with either HF (and modest antennas) or VHF (with lightweight portable beam antennas) radios, and is a superb way to combine mountain hiking (or even technical climbing) with ham radio.

For hams not yet sufficiently fit to climb mountains, the Islands on the Air (IOTA, <http://www.rsgbiota.org>) program offers a fun and challenging alternative for HF operations at picturesque locations on coastal islands.

More information is available on all of these outdoor activities on the internet by using search terms taken from the above descriptions. All are suitable for either solo or group activities, as your personality dictates. If you are interested in outdoor radio operations, whether VHF/UHF or HF, but would like more information, contact Brett VE7GM, either at the end of any Tuesday night SARC net, or via email using his RAC email callsign alias (see <https://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/1999/72-0/>). If you are ready to try it but are reluctant to go solo, let me know and I'll put you on a list to see if we can partner up some members.

If enough members would like to take part in joint outdoor radio activities, an Outdoor Radio special interest group (similar to the groups for Contesting, Satellite, and CW groups) could be organized under the SARC umbrella to coordinate partnering and possibly group outings.

Hoping to work you outdoors, 73

~ Brett VE7GM

- CQ-M International DX Contest - May 9 at 05:00 PDT to May 10 at 04:59 PDT (24 hours 1200-1159 UTC)
- CQ WW WPX Contest, CW - May 29 at 17:00 PDT to May 31 at 16:59 PDT (48 hours 0000-2359 UTC)



May 2015



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com for inclusion in this column.*

Wanted: QSL Manager

SARC needs a new QSL Manager. That person looks after submitting our QSL logs and answering requests for our Q card. If you're interested, contact John Brodie VA7XB.

Motion For A 25-Year Member Rate?

At the AGM, SARC members will be asked to vote approval for a 'seniors' discount to members who have been with the club continuously for 25 years. The proposed discount would be 50% of the current fee.

Is FM Radio Disappearing?

I read today that Norway is planning to turn off all FM radio by 2017.

As someone who actually does listen to FM every day in my home and car this seems like a real shocker if this is a trend starting in Norway. I also enjoy Satellite radio which is digital but I can't imagine a world without FM. I guess everyone will have to buy new radios for their homes and cars starting in Norway at least.

I wonder what it will do for record sales and emergency broadcast system, amber alerts... if it ever happened in North America. Imagine how many FM radios receivers exist in the world that could become obsolete in a few more years.

<http://www.cnn.com/id/102602102>

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/20/living/norway-fm-radio-digital/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-32380222>

<http://www.engadget.com/2015/04/19/norway-drops-fm-radio-in-2017/>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2015/0420/Norway-to-end-FM-radio-broadcasts.-Will-US-follow-video>

~Jeremy Morse VE7TMY

Wanted

Daiwa CN-101 cross needle type SWR-PWR meter.

Mike Plant 778.385.1074

Stolen Radio Alert!

Stolen from my vehicle in my driveway was an Icom 2820H mobile radio ser # 1501287 owned by Paul MacDonald VA7ZZT. Please pass this info around.

The police file # 15-11097 Langley RCMP

For Sale

Elecraft K3/100 + Panadapter P3 (prefer not to split) - Cdn\$3,750 firm, original boxes, 100 watt model Serial #04438

KAT3-F automatic tuner installed, 2.7 kHz 5-pole filter, KFL3A 400 Hz CW filter, KBPF3 General Coverage RX Bandpass Module (Adds coverage outside of ham bands);

Panadapter P3, plus KXV3 interface installed.

Stuart Lyster VA7QB
francislyster@shaw.ca

Field Day Photo Contest

Bring those cameras to Field Day this year. The best or most unique photo will receive a nice prize! More details next month.

Railroad Q's?

I decided to go across to North Van and purchase some Pacific Shrimp for me and my cat to enjoy for supper (they even pack the shrimp in ice, for the trip home).

Anyways, I get to daydreaming on the way home, and let my imagination go into free fall, and I find myself asking: "Why do trains use the Morse Code letter "Q" when they whistle for a crossing?". I am now home, now, and I cannot seem to find any answer in the Internet, and I am hoping someone with an intimate knowledge of Morse (or trains), can find me an answer?

I look forward to an explanation of this perplexing query.

~ Norm Schmidt VE7IIT



Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio

Radio Ham Develops Sensor Hat

In this video, radio amateur **Shiloh, K6RBT**, demonstrates her prize-winning invention, a hat with sensors to help blind people avoid obstacles

Watch Shiloh, K6RBT

https://youtu.be/D0_hD1SJrvA?t=298

Muntzing

The ARRL Contest Update for April 8, 2015 had an interesting tidbit: "Muntzing - the practice of removing components until the device stops working as a way of production cost-cutting. Madman Muntz was famous for selling TVs for less than \$100 "back in the day" when the usual set cost significantly more. And generally lasted considerably longer without a visit from the TV repairman, but let's not quibble."

More info here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madman_Muntz

An interesting guy.

~ ARRL via Brett VE7GM

From the News...

Employee hospitalized after ham fell on his head

More than 700 pounds of ham fell on this meat packing worker, prompting authorities to airlift him to the hospital.

We can fall and hurt someone... Do they make climbing harnesses that large?

~ Jim VE7FO

Man Executes Computer

Colorado Springs police have issued a citation to local resident Lucas Hinch after he became so enraged by his unco-operative computer, he opened fire eight times.

"He got tired of fighting with his computer for the last several months," Lt. Jeff Strossner told the [Colorado Springs Gazette](#). "He was having technology problems, so he took it out in the back alley and shot it."

The Gazette suggested Hinch became enraged when he could not reboot his computer.

Hinch, 37, was cited for discharging a weapon within city limits. Strossner said Hinch didn't realize he was breaking the law when he took revenge on his balky hard drive. The penalty will be up to a judge.

There was no immediate comment from the manufacturer, Dell.

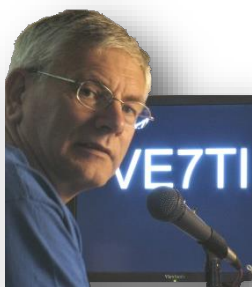
Sounds like justifiable homicide to me!



The New Westminster Hyack International Parade is on Saturday May 23. We need 25 operators, assigned to the assembly area and parade officials, and will start communications at 08:00. Those assigned to points along the parade route will start a little later. The event starts at 10:30 and we are usually all done by around 13:00.

Those willing to assist, please contact Ken Clarke VE7BC via kenjclarke@shaw.ca or Cel 604-816-5775 (texting is good)

May 2015



Tech Topics

John Schouten VE7TI

Bringing Order To Chaos... One Ham's Answer

"It became clear some time ago that I had two options... significantly reduce my radio footprint by divesting assets or find a way to bring organization to the clutter"



From humble beginnings

I readily admit that I have a modest station compared to the local big guns in our club. I have been fortunate to work at some of them over the years including stations at Fred's VE7IO, John's VA7XB and Jim's VE7FO. I'm always amazed at the number of contacts during a session, how a thousand Watts pushes through a pile-up and the variety of countries, some of which I have never even heard on my home station, let alone work them.

Over the past year or so I have written several articles for the Communicator on my efforts to put together a better station. First there was "Refinishing a Tower" in the January 2014 Communicator, then rebuilding a rotor in the December 2014 issue, and my next installment was to be refurbishing a 3-element HF beam... but that's another chapter, as yet unfinished.

My shack is part of a home office I share with my wife, and is somewhat cramped in comparison to other home stations I have worked. My transceivers have to share desk space with a computer and various other work and hobby related equipment. It became clear some time ago that I had two options... significantly reduce my radio footprint by divesting assets or find a way to bring organization to the clutter. Well, actually it was more like chaos when I worked a contest. Up to three transceivers, a tuner, a power supply, voltage monitor, SWR meter, rotator control box, Signalink digital interface, audio patch panel and the wires that held it all together, on my desk. I'd have included a 'before' photo but it would be embarrassing.

I was cleaning house last fall and as part of the process listed some stuff on Craigslist that I no longer needed. One of these items was a legal size file rack, the type that rolls around with hanging file folders [photo left]. The thing wouldn't sell despite a very competitive price, not even a single inquiry. I was about to haul it to the metal salvage when it struck me!

I could transform this into a compact rack to hold my Ham gear. A 19-inch rack is a standardized frame or enclosure for mounting multiple equipment modules. Each module has a front panel that is 19 inches (482.6 mm) wide, including edges or ears that protrude on each side which allow the module to be fastened to the rack frame with screws. Equipment designed to be placed in a rack is typically described as rack-mount. The height of the electronic modules is also standardized as multiples of 1.752 inches (44.50 mm) or one rack unit or 'U'. The industry standard rack cabinet is 42U tall [<http://www.rackmountmart.com/html/sPt.htm>]. There are usually ads for this stuff, and in used condition, often sells for the price of the scrap metal. My file rack was 21 inches wide, lots of room. Using the standard 19 inches for the front width I dug out some used blank IT panels from commercial racks that I had been saving.

I started work on it earlier this month. I pictured my gear accessible from the front and my connections for power, antennas and audio at the side. I removed the casters from the file rack—I could see that sucker rolling off the desk in my excitement during a pile-up! I added some channel aluminum to enclose one side as well. I already had a section of standard rack mounting channel that I mounted on either side of the front opening.



I should clarify that I was not attempting to create a Grab 'n Go Kit though the end result looks a bit like the excellent SEPAR kits, as seen in the April Communicator. My rack can be lifted by one person but it was meant to stay in one place. I also wanted it to be flexible enough to shift gear around if my inventory changed and be accessible to wiring and the inevitable equipment reconfigurations over time.

I cut several pieces of the panels to fit the openings for my transceivers, painted them black and edged them with black automotive door moulding from Canadian Tire. I added a panel mount LED voltmeter and a car 12 volt accessory outlet (I guess we don't call them cigarette lighters anymore). I have a USB 5 volt plug-in for this outlet that I can use for charging my iPhone or for a USB LED light to softly light the front of the unit at night.

On the side I added a speaker, four PL-259 UHF feed through connectors. My feedlines enter here and I can use a patch panel approach to connect them to the transceiver of choice. I have a PowerPole 12 volt distribution panel which supplies fused protection and powers the gear, and I added two PowerPoles to an external side outlet. I don't have a use for them yet but I plan for the future ☺. All wires are bundled and routed to the side and rear of the chassis.

Because I also use the gear while mobile and travelling, I needed an easy method to remove and replace it. The units are held in by heavy duty releasable zip ties which are inexpensive, strong and secure.

My audio enters and exits through a ProCo PM-148 patch bay. This is another rack mount surplus item and allows me to feed anything that takes a ¼ inch phone plug and connect it to anything else. There are 24 pairs of jacks on the front and a matching 24 pairs on the back of the ProCo. Audio from the devices goes into the rear jacks and I can patch them at the front so that I can hook up multiple headsets, mics or foot switches in any combination. I also added a built-in mobile transceiver speaker to the side as an additional listening option.

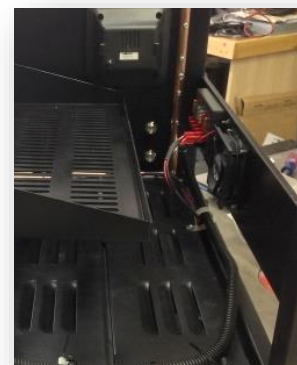
I have used it for several days now and what a treat! I have sufficient space on my desk for my coffee cup and a snack and all my gear is less than an arms length away. I have ordered a new panel volt meter because I found one on eBay for \$6 that does triple duty, adding a clock and thermometer—built-in overheating protection and UTC at a glance!

So far I haven't experienced any interference or noise issues but I have a supply of ferrites available should the need arise. I even have some rack space left in the event I need to add another 'toy'.

Because I had all the parts and connectors already, the only cost was a can of semi-gloss black spray paint. That plus my time; not a bad investment for a functional station.

~ John VE7TI

"audio enters and exits through a ProCo PM-148 patch bay..."



Power Distribution



Early construction stage, the coax connectors and external PowerPoles on the side



The finished project

ProCo Patch Bay

Blank panel...
future expansion?

IC-7000 HF, SignalLink
and SWR Meter

Kenwood HF voltage
monitor, 12v jack and
IC-2820 VHF-UHF D-STAR



May 2015



History of SEPAR

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



Part 5



The SEPAR communications trailer was a bare shell when we scraped together enough money to purchase it in late 2011 from Sunrise trailers in Cloverdale. One of the first projects was to have the trailer completely insulated, walls, ceiling and floor, this was done in Burnaby.



The selection of radio equipment for the trailer was the same as we have in the radio room and all the Grab and Go kits. The radios chosen were two Icom 2820's with D-Star boards and one Kenwood TS-480SAT. For the trailer we purchased a Timewave PK96 packet modem instead of the SCS Pro II that we have in the radio room and the Grab and Go kits. The trailer is equipped with Alinco 32A power supplies, 2 Larsen Dual Band Antennas, one Hi Q 5-160 HF antenna and headsets for all the radios. The trailer has BCWARN capability complete with an azimuth and elevation rotator.



Following the completion of the insulation, the trailer was taken to Kjeld, VE7GP's QTH where Kjeld installed an operating desk, ventilation fan, wiring and an equipment rack. The equipment rack was donated by Kapila, VE7KGK, who also supplied the rack for the radio room. Once the rack and operating desk were completed the radios and antennas were installed. Drew, VA7DRW, provided a rotator for the BCWARN dish complete with a controller which was a major step forward in mounting and aiming the BCWARN dish, BCWARN, in the trailer, was ready to go.



The trailer was operational, well sort of, we had HF using a HiQ antenna but lacked a controller so tuning was slow and inaccurate. We had the IC 2820s working nicely but no TNC so no digital.

The BCWARN dish, even though temporarily mounted, was functional. Kjeld, VE7GP, installed a work desk along the port wall but we need more operating positions. Kjeld also installed a ceiling fan complete with thermostatic control, it works great. We were very short of funds and the trailer was not finished inside; however the outside was nicely lettered with reflective SEPAR signage and, from the outside, our trailer looked great. We needed to get on with completing the inside and we needed someone to take this on. At this point Al, VE7CDC, took an interest in the trailer and he had some time to help out. Al got busy and put his thinking cap on and came up with items we needed for the operating positions as well as equipment to make the trailer much safer while on the road. When the dust settled we had secure tie-downs for the loose pieces and we had LED lighting. Kjeld joined in again and completed an operating desk across the front of the trailer. Al provided two computer monitors complete with wall mounts. One was for the packet system and the other was for BCWARN and station management. We still needed to get power, 120V, into the trailer; an aluminum plate was mounted complete with waterproof connectors and the power, on the inside, was wired to a distribution system. At the end of the day the inside, while still not complete, had packet, secure travel tie-downs, computer monitors, good chairs and ventilation.

In this series of articles I have tried to provide a picture of how and why SEPAR came into being and the progress through the years since 1994. In looking back to the beginning of SEPAR and following the progress has provided an opportunity to

see how this volunteer organization has kept up with the changing needs of the City of Surrey. We have moved from the purely analog age to the digital age with our radios and training. These needs are still changing and most likely more rapidly than ever, Surrey now has robust communications which undoubtedly will not fail during a major disaster. This means that the City's requirement for communications between official offices may not be needed as it was in days gone by. SEPAR emergency communications will most likely be needed in support of the community through organization such as the Emergency Social Services (ESS). Taking a look around the Metro area I see amateur radio in Vancouver and VECTOR very much moving to a community service. ARRL is also focusing more on the needs of the community than the needs of government.

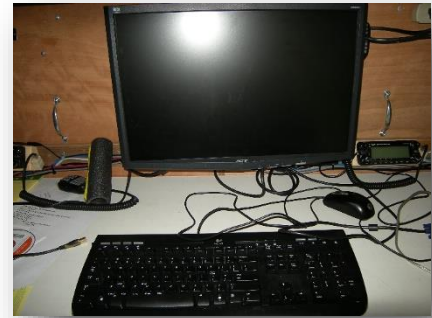
As this is my last article in the history of SEPAR I want to thank all the SEPAR volunteers who have, over the past years, contributed their time and expertise in support of amateur radio. Your contributions have raised the level of respect for our skills with the City managers. Knowing that SEPAR and amateur radio is so respected by the municipal staff and elected politicians I encourage you, as an amateur radio operators and volunteers, to continue to work with the City for expanded support for amateur radio. To me, this would mean support for personal antenna structures and space within municipal buildings. We have a radio room at the EOC, small as it is it functions quite well, but why not a larger room where radios and antennas can be installed for use by radio amateurs who cannot, due to restrictions, have a good HF station at home. This would be a clubhouse, emergency training center as well as being used for contesting. Before you say this would never happen, take a look at the Coquitlam club/emergency group, they are very well supported by the City of Coquitlam. Our radio amateurs are equally respected here in Surrey so why not make the next project a permanent club house for amateur radio?

As the old saying goes "time waits for no one" and I have reached the time in my life where my volunteer time has run out. I will remain on the SEPAR roster in case my station may be needed during a disaster, however, I will not be an active member after the SEPAR AGM on April 28th, 2015. The camaraderie and challenges of amateur radio have been extremely rewarding for me and I will continue to operate my station for DXing and contesting. Running a multi/multi contest from my shack is something I enjoy very much, so, I will still be looking for contest operators.

~ Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator (retired)
ve7io@separs.net

~ Fred, I think I speak for everyone associated with the SEPAR Program and Society in thanking you for the many years of dedicated service and mentoring that you have brought to the hobby, SARC, SEPAR and the City of Surrey Emergency Program—Ed.

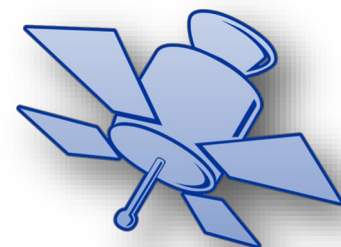


May 2015



Satellite Specialty Group

John Brodie VA7XB



A Successful Contact with FO-29

*The next meeting is
scheduled for
Sunday, May 10th*

The third meeting of the Satellite Group took place during the afternoon of April 12th. This time John VE7TI, recently back from Palm Springs, was able to join the effort. Since the last meeting John VA7XB had assembled all the radio equipment, interfaces, controllers etc. together in a rack for ease of transport and use. He had also previously gotten the rotator controller working with the software, so that the azimuth and elevation would track the satellite as it moved across the sky, all in response to commands by the SatPC32 software.



The next order of business was to mount the 2m and 440 MHz antennas on the boom, connect the rotators and coax, all of which were quickly completed. As hoped, and despite the antennas being in storage for many years prior to the meeting, both antennas displayed an acceptable SWR at the frequencies of interest. Final adjustments were made to align the antenna azimuth and elevation in accordance with the controller, then the quest for overhead satellites began in earnest.

Martinez in Palestine, Texas (Grid Square EM21). We hit the jackpot with this contact as he is very involved with satellites. Hector is Cuban and also holds the callsign CO6CBF. Many videos and glimpses of Hector working sats can be found at <http://amsat-uk.org/tag/fo-29/>.

Also during the meeting, the group showed great interest as Nell VA7PE demonstrated her Arrow Satellite Antenna station, some of which she custom-made herself. She showed how the duplexer was built into the handle of the boom that the antenna is mounted on. She has also installed a long piece of metal channel onto the boom for mounting of a flashlight and paper tabloid, thus enabling her to record contact data at night. Other components of her system include: a Baofeng dual band hand held transceiver, a tripod stand, a compass, an elevation angle indicator, and a clock. Nell is still in the process of improving her Arrow Satellite Antenna station. Jay Melvin (VE7KC) pointed out that there is now an infra-red clock read-out that can be read in the dark and would be suitable for mounting on her rig.

~John VA7XB

*Below, left to right:
Jay, John TI, Hiu, Nell,
Sheldon, Ralph and
John XB*



Before long, FO-29 came into view over the horizon and, as it gained elevation, voice signals began to be heard.

At about 15:20 local time, John VE7TI (using callsign VE7SAR) made a successful contact with W5CBF Hector

FO-29 carries a 100KHz wide SSB/CW linear transponder that operates in mode V/U. It additionally carries a 1k2/9k6 digital BBS that is no longer operational and a Digitalker beacon that transmits a digital voice on FM. FO-29 includes an attitude control system that consists of a sun-sensor, geomagnetism sensor, magnetorquer and data processor. It also features an advanced solar cell experiment consisting of gallium-arsenide solar cells 2cm x 2cm and 2cm x 1cm cells.

Mode V/U (J) Linear Transponder (Inverting):

Uplink: 145.9000 - 146.0000 MHz SSB/CW

Downlink 435.8000 - 435.9000 MHz SSB/CW

Mode U Beacon:

Downlink 435.7950 MHz CW

Mode U Digitalker (Rarely Used):

Downlink 435.9100 MHz FM

Want to know satellite terminology:

<http://amsat-uk.org/faq/the-satellite-glossary-of-terms/>

FO-29 info
at <http://amsat-uk.org/tag/fo-29/> with many
videos and
glimpses of Hector
working sats.



John VE7TI (left) contacts Hector W5CBF (right) in Texas via satellite FO-29.



Friday Breakfast...

Remember, we meet each Friday at 8am for breakfast at the Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Avenue. There, Janice will serve you up a great cup of coffee and a hearty breakfast (the Daily Special is very reasonable). Conversation is good and often goes beyond Amateur Radio.

We hope to see you there as well!



May 2015



The Annual SARC Foxhunt

John Brodie VA7XB

Let's Talk About Radio Direction Finding



Let's talk about Radio Direction Finding (RDF) or "foxhunting", the latter term being the one by which most SARC members know it.

SARC's foxhunt is always held on a

Saturday morning in May, a time of year which usually provides sufficiently reliable weather that we can count on having a day of sunshine in pleasant surroundings. Again this year, SARC's Foxhunt and BBQ are being organized by Anton VE7SSD and Al VA7ALZ. Full particulars may be found on the attached flyer; please note that you must register in advance if you wish to participate.

For SARC, the main focus leading up to the Foxhunt itself has always been constructing equipment such as directional antennas and attenuators for use with a 2m handheld radio for locating one or more hidden "foxes". A fox is simply a low power transmitter that sends out a beacon on a specific frequency which can be heard by the hunter, whose job is to find it.

For others, RDF may be about techniques for hunting down unlicensed transmitters or rogue sources of RF interference such as powerlines, grow-ops or malfunctioning electronic devices in the neighbourhood. Skills developed during foxhunting events inevitably lead to expertise in RDF tracking - so think of foxhunting as a fun activity with a practical side.

The most popular (and very effective) antenna for many years has been the tape-measure beam, see: http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm because it is so easily constructed with common materials.

The tape measure beam is lightweight, portable, robust antenna that provides a strong front-to-back performance with a sharp null off the back. It's cheap to make too, using materials found at your local hardware store. Many chose to stick with the tried-and-true but others enjoy experimenting with new and novel designs, many of which can be found on the Internet.

A supplementary, very useful project is the offset attenuator which required assembling a kit: see <http://www.amateurradio.com/foxhunt-gear-%E2%80%93offset-attenuators/>. The attenuator allows you to get close to the fox without the otherwise inevitable over-loading of the radio and loss of directionality of the antenna caused by the nearby signal.

For those who like building and experimenting, another option is a TDOA (time-difference-of-arrival) antenna, which operates on an entirely different principle. A discussion and circuit for the TDOA is found at: <http://www.146970.com/PDFs/TDOA%20Phasenpeiler.pdf>

The TDOA antenna relies on the phase difference that occurs when 2 antennas are not at the same distance from the transmitter; the user turns and listens for a null in the signal, indicating that the transmitter is equidistant from each antenna, thereby indicating that the direction of the transmitter is perpendicular to the plane of the 2 antennas. Because two opposite directions fulfill this condition, the user generally moves off to another spot and repeats the process using triangulation to confirm the correct bearing. An apparent advantage of the TDOA antenna is that it is not susceptible to overload by strong signals when you get close to the transmitter; therefore you don't need an attenuator. However, neither does it tell you how close you are to the quarry. If you would like to construct a TDOA here are some references to get you started:

A PIC-based TDOA DF Antenna Unit (with an audible field strength meter) by KA7OEI: http://www.ka7oei.com/PIC_tdoa.html

Simple Time-Difference-of-Arrival RDF by Joe Leggio WB2HOL: <http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tdoa1.htm>

For a discussion of TDOA and more conventional methods, check out: <http://www.homingin.com/>

How innovative can you be with your foxhunting setup?

~ John VA7XB

SARC Foxhunt
Saturday
May 23, 2015 at
Crescent Park,
South Surrey





SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2015 RDF Foxhunt

**Saturday May 23, 2015 at
Crescent Park, South Surrey**

Pre-Hunt Coaching, Registration & Instructions 0900 - 1000

Foxhunt commences at 1000 with barbeque at 1200

To participate, you need a 2 m handheld radio. However, if you are a beginner, or don't have a radio, then come anyhow! You can be part of a more experienced team or we may have some spare equipment that you can use.

Talk-in 147.360+ (110.9 tone)

**FOXHUNT – NO CHARGE;
BARBEQUE \$10**

All are welcome, but we ask that you RSVP Anton James VE7SSD jamesadf@shaw.ca and indicate if you plan to attend the foxhunt or BBQ or both



*To get there, take
Crescent Rd. west from
King George Blvd near
Hwy 99,
& turn off at 129th St.
to parking & assembly
area*

May 2015



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



**Mike Plant
VE7AT**

Mike was born and raised in Greasbrough, Yorkshire, England. He was an only child, though did have a half- brother who now lives in Powell River and a half- sister who still lives in Yorkshire. When his parents divorced he and his mother moved to Lancashire. At the young age of 13 Mike worked part-time as a Commis Chef (trainee). He left school at the age of 15 and worked in 2 different hotels in Blackpool (a popular holiday area by the sea). There he worked split shifts; 6 days a week and attended culinary college on the 7th day for 8 hours. He kept up this grueling schedule for 4 years at which time he passed his exams with credits. One exam was with the City Guild and the other with the Institute of London. He moved on to work as a chef for the well - known comedian Jimmy Clitheroe in his hotel. It was while attending college in the 1970's that he met his wife Kathy who was also attending the same college. They married and had a daughter, Charlotte, while still living in England.

In 1974 they all moved to Canada and lived in the North Shore of the lower mainland. They went on to have another daughter, Amanda. Both daughters have since married and provided Kathy and Mike with 4 grandchildren. Both Mike and Kathy worked for the North Shore Winter Club. Later, Mike went on to manage a restaurant in Vancouver. Seeking a change, Mike then worked for a slaughter house as a meat cutter. Finally, he went to work for Neptune Foods in 1980 as a truck driver and warehouseman. Now he is off on long term disability. Not surprisingly, he does the cooking at home as Kathy still works out of the home. This means Kathy can put her feet up when she gets home...or does she have to do the dishes and cleanup Mike!

In 1981 Mike purchased a Kenwood - Trio at Radio Shack and with this he started short wave listening until, in 1992 he took a course at Comm West and obtained his Basic License with the call sign of VE7IKB. He joined SARC in 1993. By then he and Kathy had moved to Surrey. In 1995 he became President of SARC. He left SARC and formed the South Westminster Amateur Radio Group Society. By 1997 he

decided to take a rest from club activity and concentrated on doing "individual ham stuff". He and Kathy purchased property in the Mt Baker area of the US, their escape home. From 2006 to 2007 Mike was president of SARC for 2nd and 3rd terms. His favourite thing to do in amateur radio was and is digital communication. In 2008 he obtained his RAC Emergency Coordinator certification and belonged to VECTOR (Vancouver Emergency Telecom Organization) and received an award from the Mayor of Vancouver for this work in serving the community. He was part of establishing SEPAR in the beginning and also received an award by the City of Surrey for this. He ran the radio room at Fire Hall #1. Mike has a great little radio shack with several radios; iCom IC 7000, IC 7006, 28H, IC 229, Yaesu FT 8800, TYT 220, THF 6A, and a Baofeng UV5R. Mike does HF in his truck with a screwdriver antenna. Kathy also has her Basic License but is not active at present.

Besides ham radio, Mike has other hobbies such as building remote control model boats (see enclosed picture) and belonging to the Burnaby Association of Marine Modelers.



He and Kathy enjoy fishing together and Mike is a **huge** Beatle fan. Mike participated in 1996 in the BC Championship for Truck Drivers and was sent by Neptune to Regina for the Canadian Championship where he came in 5th. He went on to Miami where he came in 10th in the North American Trucking Championship. As a couple Kathy and Mike have travelled to Alaska and Florida and in the future they plan on purchasing an RV, when Kathy retires, and using it to travel throughout North America. Let's not forget the latest addition to the Plant family, a small rescue dog called "Bugsy" who is part Min- pin and part Chihuahua. Kathy describes her husband as having a good sense of humour, being patient though "does not suffer fools lightly" and that he is a good cook. As Mike is no longer working out of the home he has decided to return to SARC where he is a welcome addition to membership. Welcome back to SARC Mike.

~ Jinty Reid VA7JMR





May Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	2
3 MAPLE RIDGE SWAP MEET CONTEST: Indiana, Delaware and New England QSO Parties (All Modes)	4	5 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	6	7	8 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	9 Contest: CQ-M DX CONTEST SSB & CW
10 Contest: CQ-M DX CONTEST SSB & CW 1330 Satellite Group Meets	11	12 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	13 SARC General Meeting	14	15 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	16
17	18	19 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	20	21	22 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	23 SARC Foxhunt Crescent Park Hyack Parade New West
24/31 24th Coquitlam AR Club Open House 31st Contest: CQ WW WPX	25	26 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	27 SARC Exec Meeting	28	29 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	30 Contest: CQ WW WPX Contest (CW)

May 2015

**QRT**

Garvin Yee VA7YEE

Eyes Wide Shut

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARYRob Gilchrist VE7CZV
(also Net Manager)**TREASURER**

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORSJohn Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor & Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

**SARC Photos
Web Albums**

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

Possible or likely reasons for power supply burnout. Cat? What cat?

Last time I wrote, it was about how I coped with my blindness. Continuing with that theme, on April 8, in conjunction with Rob VE7CZV, we conducted a talk on how visually impaired/blind operate the radios.

Rob gave a thorough talk on how visually impaired (Rob and I) use the computer and software in accessing the radio operations. Well it may be easy and simple for the sighted operators, it's more labour intensive for us visually impaired, for we have to find, interpret the titles/links for specific job action. Like in a monopoly game, you can go directly to jail, bypassing Go and missing out on \$200. We visually impaired still have to take the circular route, to get to jail, without collecting \$200 or mini doughnuts. Hence labour intensive. But I digress.

On April 8, it was my task to introduce/review I.R.L.P. (Internet Radio Linking Project). I had pre-arranged but missed my call to Jake VA4JAK in Winnipeg (he fell asleep waiting for my call). Luckily Mike VA4MX in Winnipeg responded to my call. After a short chat, we disconnected the link to Winnipeg.

I particularly like to point out, that I was using a hand held on low power, when I made contact/talked to Winnipeg. Signal strength was loud and clear on both sides.

I consider myself a rookie ham radio operator, for I got my license August 2012. Other than talking on VHF, I never ventured out for anything else. Scared? Most likely. So having to do this talk/lecture on IRLP, was a rear kicker and forced me to learn something new. I thank SARC for *volunteering me* to do the lesson on IRLP.

Now for the eye opener. One of the subjects brought up by one member of SARC, was why isn't the frequency/airwave used more often? So with that question put forth, I decided to turn on my radio and monitor the air. I frequently heard ham

radio operators speak on some Alaskan network. It took me a few days, before my eyes were opened.

What I discovered was the power of the radio. The potential. In today's high technology and social net, where anyone and everyone is either texting, twitting or Instagram, etc. So we always ask the question; What happens if the circuit/network goes down? (This is one reason I joined/volunteered with SEPAR).

Anyhow, on the Alaskan network, ham radio operators from all over North America, and then some from overseas, gave their location and current weather conditions. That information was instantaneous, here and now from another part of the world, by a human voice. More can be read by the tone of a voice, then reading text message. This made me think about Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The power of the radio in communications. I realize that we saw and heard CNN Reporters et al, standing in the rain and hurricane force wind, informing us what's it like to stand in a storm. Ah duh.

So what if the whole system goes down? So with amateur radio operators, we can replace the down system pretty quick. We would also have more operators in the field, than reporters, that haven't been blown away yet.

Ham radio operators are considered an old breed, in today's technological world. I, who is visually impaired and technically challenged, should get the word out, that we ham radio operators are not obsolete. We ham radio operators are also high tech. That could be one of the lures in recruiting or exposing younger people to be interested or join the world of being a ham radio operator.

I'm happy that SARC has accepted me as one of their members. I'm slowly expanding my small dark world, appreciating your friendship and offers of aid/help.

~ Garvin VA7YEE

The May Meeting

The May 13th SARC general meeting is our last one of this fiscal year before the AGM in June. The agenda will be almost entirely devoted to Field Day planning, including:

- the overall Field Day plan and strategy
- proposed concepts for maximizing our score
- a request to approve the FD budget
- sign-up for volunteer participation including setup and takedown
- how the event will test the readiness of our equipment and general preparedness for an emergency requiring radio communication
- what is planned to showcase amateur radio to the public



SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Stdbby	Drew VA7DRW Brett VE7GM Stdbby
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Stdbby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Rob VE7CZV
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV @ separs.net		

Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt BC
PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100 hrs
14923—64th Ave, next
to Firehall #9, Surrey.



We Have A SARC Patch!

These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at the meeting or a Friday morning breakfast.

Burnaby Radio Communications

Michael J. Wong VE7HMW
President/Owner

4257 Hastings Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 2J5
Phone 604-298-5444
Fax 604-298-5455

Commercial / Amateur Radio
Email: sales@burnabyradio.com
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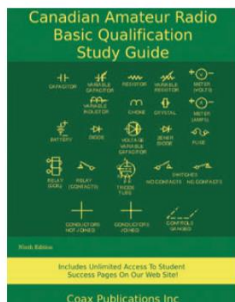
QUAD BANDS TRANSMISSION (including SW)
EIGHT BANDS RECEPTION (including AM & SW)

Twin Band/Same Band Simultaneous Reception;
Duplex Mode (Cross-Band Simultaneous TX&RX) Duplex Cross-Band Repeat;
Same-Band Repeat on two Combined Radios; 8 groups of Scrambler SOS Function



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SPECIAL COMMUNICATOR SUPPLEMENT

SARC was recently fortunate enough to acquire a donation of iCom and Motorola commercial radio equipment. The list is extensive and is published here for interested individuals.

Note: the majority of these items (especially transceivers) are commercial, not amateur but may be programmable to amateur frequencies.

All items sold "as is, where is" as condition cannot be guaranteed. Remaining items will be taken to the Maple Ridge Swap Meet and sold to the highest bidder.

For more information on any of the following items, or if you wish to purchase please contact: John Brodie VA7XB email: brodiejb@shaw.ca

Qty	Mfr	Model	Description	Included	
NEW ITEMS IN BOX					
Icom Items New in Box					
2	Icom	HN-148	hand mics		new
2	Icom	WPLN4137AR	charger		new
11	Icom	BC-160	charger		new
4	Icom	BC-119N	charger		new
3	Icom	BC-146	charger		new
2	Icom	BC-146	c/w adaptor AD-99N		new
1	Icom	AD-110	adaptor		new
19	Icom	AD-100	adaptor		new
2	Icom	AD-67	adaptor		new
Otto Items New in Box					
8	Otto	V2-10314	hand mic for Icom F30/40/50/60/70/80		new
5	Otto	V2-10200	hand mic for Icom F3G/F4G		new
PORTABLE RADIOS (ALL USED)					
6	ICOM	IC-F30-2	portable VHF radio	case, antenna, battery	TO BE SOLD AS LOT
6	ICOM	BC-119	charger for above radio		
6	ICOM	AD-67	adaptor for above radio		
6	ICOM	BC-123A	12 v 1 amp power supply for charger		
14	ICOM		spare batteries for above radio		
4	MOTOROLA	CP200	portable VHF radio	case, antenna, battery	TO BE SOLD AS LOT
4	MOTOROLA	WPLN4137AR	charger for above radio		
3	MOTOROLA	EPNN7994A	16 V 1.5 amp power supply for charger		
5	MOTOROLA		spare batteries for above radio		
8	ICOM	IC-F14S	portable VHF/UHF radios	antenna	TO BE SOLD AS LOT
1	ICOM	F3011	portable VHF/UHF radios	antenna	
9	ICOM	BC119N	charger for above radio		
9	ICOM	AD-106	adaptor for above radio		
9	ICOM	BC145A	16 v 1 amp power supply for above		
NO BATTERIES FOR THE ABOVE RADIOS					
16	MOTOROLA	GP30	portable VHF/UHF radios	case, antenna, battery	TO BE SOLD AS LOT
16	MOTOROLA	HTN9630C	charger for above radio		
16	MOTOROLA	2580162R01	13.8 V 1.5amp power supply for above		
24	MOTOROLA		spare batteries for above radio		

May 2015

REPEATER ITEMS

7 CES	RM20	Repeater Maker controller	used
10 Sinclair	MR256B-2	6 cavity VHF duplexers BNC con., 4.5 MHz -10 MHz sep., 148-160 MHz	used
1 Sinclair	MR256B-1	ditto	used
1 Sinclair	MR256	ditto	used
4 Comprod	536-90	6 cavity VHF duplexers BNC con. 4.5 MHz sep., 144/155/150-165/160-174 MHz	used
2 Comprod	536-90	ditto	new
1 Icom Repeater in Pelican Case		RX 158.205 TX 153.305 RM 20 controller & cavities	used
1 Motorola Repeater in Pelican Case		M03GRC90C2AA RX 151.085 TX 158.205 incl cavities	used

CHARGERS AND POWER SUPPLIES**Motorola Power Supplies for Chargers**

23 Motorola	2580162R01	13.8 v 1.5 amp	used
2 Motorola	481609003NT	16 v 0.9 amp	used

Motorola Chargers

22 Motorola	HTN9630C		used
8 Motorola	HTN9630A		used
3 Motorola	HTN9802C		used
2 Motorola	WPLN4137AR		used

Icom Power Supplies for Chargers

2 Icom	BC-145SA	16 V switching	used
32 Icom	BC-145A	16 V	used
1 Icom	BC-147A	12 V 200 mA	used
5 Icom	BC-123A	12 V 1 amp	used
6 Icom	BC-145E	230 VAC 16 V 1 amp	new

Icom Power Supplies for Chargers

2 Icom	BC-145SA	16 V switching	used
32 Icom	BC-145A	16 V	used
1 Icom	BC-147A	12 V 200 mA	used
5 Icom	BC-123A	12 V 1 amp	used
6 Icom	BC-145E	230 VAC 16 V 1 amp	new

Icom Chargers

		With Adaptor	used
1 Icom	BC-119N	AD-110	used
12 Icom	BC-114N	no adaptor	used
5 Icom	BC-119N	AD-94	used
4 Icom	BC-119	AD-67	used
4 Icom	BC-119N	AD-106	used
6 Icom	BC-160	no adaptor	used
4 Icom	BC-144	no adaptor	used
1 Icom		AD-67	used
1 Icom		AD-99N spacer	used
1 Icom		spacer	used

MISCELLANEOUS

3 Specialty Concepts	ASC12/16	solar panel charge controllers	used
1 Connect Systems	CS800	full Duplex Interconnect	used
1 Thrane & Thrane	403034A	Satellite /Marine phone	used
1 Icom	OPC-1939	Accessory cable	new
1 Icom	OPC-966U	USB cloning cable kit	incl installation CD new
1 Icom	OPC-966	USB cloning cable kit	incl installation CD new
1 box Icom		mobile radio mounting brackets	new

VHF ANTENNAS & HARDWARE

2 Larsen	BSA Kit	Base Mount Kit radials for 144-512 MHz	new
Misc		Misc NMO mounts, some with coax	used
Misc		whips of different lengths	used

CONNECTORS

1000		BNC & other crimp connectors for RG6 and RG59 cable	new
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HAND MICS**Icom Hand Mics**

			mic free with radio	
1 Icom	HM-35		mic free with radio	used
1 Icom	HM-37		mic free with radio	used
1 Icom	HM-100TN	RJ-45 connector	mic free with radio	used
2 Icom	EM-99	RJ-45 connector	mic free with radio	used
1 Icom	HM42	7 pin	mic free with radio	used
2 Icom	HM-152	RJ-45 connector	mic free with radio	used
1 Icom	HM-158L	2 pin	mic free with radio	used

Motorola Hand Mics

			mic free with radio	
1 Motorola`	TMN6150A	5 pin connector	mic free with radio	used
4 Motorola`	HMN9725	2 pin	mic free with radio	used
3 Motorola`	HMN9030A	2 pin	mic free with radio	used
3 Motorola`	NMN6153B	6 pin	mic free with radio	used
2 Motorola`	HMN 1035A	RJ-45 connector	mic free with radio	
1 Motorola`	HMN 1056D	RJ-45 connector	mic free with radio	

Otto Hand Mics

2 Otto	10162	9 pin flat connector	used
1 Smart-Mic		9 pin flat connector	used
1 Otto	V2-10314	hand mic 7 pin connector	new

MOBILE VHF RADIOS

4 Icom	F320WN-6	Mobile radios	c/w power cord and hand mic	used
1 Motorola	CDM1550-LS+	Mobile radios	c/w power cord and hand mic	used